

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title as it currently appears with the following revised title:

--PHOTOCONDUCTOR DRUM AND DRIVE SHAFT GEAR PORTIONS OF AN IMAGE
FORMING APPARATUS--

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 10-19, with the following revised paragraph:

--According to the invention, in case that the first gear portion on the photoconductor side and the second gear portion on the photoconductor drive shaft side are in the same phase, only the leading end of the tooth ~~[[than]]~~ that is longer than the other teeth comes into contact with the leading end of the tooth of the gear portion on the other side. Therefore, the first gear portion and the second gear portion are not in the phase readily between the partial teeth coming into contact with each, so that gear coupling between the photoconductor and the photoconductor drive shaft driving this conductor can be smoothly performed.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 24, and ending on page 11, line 3, with the following revised paragraph:

--In the embodiment, only one tooth 15a' of the first gear portion 15 is longer than other teeth 15a. However, two ~~[[and]]~~ or more teeth may be longer. Namely, plural teeth 15a' may be different in axial length from other teeth

15a.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, lines 10-15, with the following revised paragraph:

--Although the gears and teeth are explained in the above description, the present invention may be adapted for spline coupling. Namely, shafts with longitudinal gearlike ridges (called ~~[[as]]~~ "splines") along ~~theirs~~ their interior or exterior surfaces are mated. In this case, one of ridges is made longer than the others.--